

The states of New York, California, Connecticut and Illinois have joined together in a lawsuit claiming that the USDA's protocols for preventing invasive pests from entering the United States in wooden packing material from overseas are ineffective and harmful to the environment. Specifically, the states claim the use of methyl bromide as a wood treatment is not effective and that the chemical harms the ozone. New Jersey is not joining the lawsuit. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has been pleased with the cooperation from USDA as we work to eradicate the Asian longhorned beetle, and the program's success here speaks for itself. The Department understands that USDA is following the protocols of an international phytosanitary treaty, the International Plant Protection Convention, and does not agree with the other states that those protocols are ineffective and/or harmful.

Middlesex/Union Counties ALB Infestation

A total of 157 high-risk host trees in residential areas need to be removed from the City of Linden as the result of five new infested trees found in late-July and early August. In addition, 33 more high-risk host trees will be removed from the Rosehill Cemetery.

The recent finds of five new infested trees, which include maples, birches and elms in the southeast section of Linden, resulted in an expansion of the quarantine zone. Because they all had egg sites but no exit holes, the zone expansion was by 1/8 of a mile. The expansion does not take the quarantine zone into any new municipalities. The total size of the expanded zone is approximately 16.5 square miles.

One tree that had old eggs sites dating back to last year has been taken down. The four infested trees still standing will be taken down after the first hard frost to avoid dispersing any adult beetles that may be in them to other trees.

On September 6, the Rahway office welcomed two new PPQ Technicians, Jason Botz and Eric Nichols, to the NJ ALB team.

On September 10, Rosa Yoo, NJ Forest Service Community Forester, and PPQ Officer Elisandra Sánchez participated in the Carteret Ethnic Fair. Both were available to answer questions and hand out ALB outreach materials to attendees.

On September 1, PPQ Supervisor Greg Rentschler and N.J. State Forestry and Parks Forester Pam Zipse were part of a two-hour aerial observation flight around the ALB quarantine zone in Middlesex/Union counties. They were looking for host tree leaf discoloration signs that were observed with the initial ALB core infested site in August 2004. The State Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Forestry and Parks provided the jet ranger helicopter at no cost. No specific areas of discoloration were observed.